

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KNABE AND YAROSLAVSKY

April 20, 2010

Assembly Bill (AB) 2706 (Lowenthal) specifies that a homeless person has the right to be free from violence or intimidation, and that he or she can sue for enhanced civil penalties if an act of violence was committed against them because of their status as a homeless individual.

There is no question that the homeless population is the target of vicious crimes. In the past two years, there have been a number of senseless murders and incidents of violence committed against homeless persons across Los Angeles County. Five individuals were shot to death at a homeless encampment in Long Beach. In the mid-Wilshire neighborhood of Los Angeles, a homeless individual was fatally beaten and set on fire. Another homeless man in Lincoln Heights was stabbed to death.

Homeless individuals have the right to be free from violence and intimidation as much as anyone. If enacted into law, AB 2706 will help protect a vulnerable population, and also continue to promote a better understanding of the plight of the homeless across our communities.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors support AB 2706 (Lowenthal), and instruct the County's legislative advocates in Sacramento to advocate for its passage.

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RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

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